

MINUTES: Centerville Township Windmill Ordinance Committee, June 17, 2006

Present: Molly Hyde, Mark Zemanek, Richard Light, Carolyn Weed, Travis Nelson, Richard Kobetz, Gary Cook, Dale Pleva, Joseph Czerniak, David Wurm

Mr. Wurm reported on the Planning Board meeting. They liked the committee's statement of purpose. They did want us to update our timeline to the end of the year and have a rough draft of an ordinance submitted to Planning in January of 2007. Mr. Johnson has drafted a letter to Noble to notify them that we are working on an ordinance and that a moratorium will be put in effect in the event that any applications are submitted prior to the completion of an ordinance. The language in the letter has been approved by an attorney and has been also approved by Mr. Zemanek and Mr. Wurm.

Mr. Nelson recently visited two large windfarms in Rockford, IL and Lincoln Twp., WI. He handed out a written report on his visits and commented how shocking the appearance was of the many turbines at first sight. There were at least 56 turbines at the site in IL. They were very close to the expressway, which covered the sound in three locations. Mr. Nelson felt both locations were less densely populated than Centerville Twp. There were fewer houses than our area. He was able to conduct interviews with several people in Lincoln Twp. Some seemed to not mind the windmills. They were possibly vested in the project. Others did not like the sound and mentioned difficulties selling property near the windmills. There were mixed reports from people who originally supported their local project in the beginning. Some people felt there were major problems after the installation, whereas others did not.

Mr. Kobetz also had the opportunity to visit another windfarm near Blairsburg, IA. There were 50-75 turbines on very flat, open land. There were only a few houses, maybe 1/3 as compared to Centerville. The turbines were the size of the one in Traverse. They were spread 500-600 feet apart. He did observe flicker effect. No matter where the sun was, it was reflecting off of the blades, almost a sparkle. Mr. Zemanek stated we need to address density and setbacks.

Ms. Weed presented the idea that we may want to consider a limit on the total amount of produced electricity. Since we don't want to look industrial, possible limiting production to the amount that would be used by our township. Mr. Light mentioned that in some cases in Europe communities receive the power so that the benefit is local, but that is not how things are working in the US. Using per household calculation methods from the AWEA, 2 turbines would fulfill our township needs.

Mr. Cook addressed the different language in the different ordinances that we have been looking at. What do we want to preserve in our township? Mr. Light stated the master plan and zoning are in conflict with a wind farm project. Mr. Cook commented there are many issues outside of the ordinance that do affect us. Power generation at night results in too much power in the lines due to low usage. Ugly is currently having transmission problems. He recommends that we speak with the Public Services Utility Commission

representative that recently conducted a seminar on wind energy. There are known problems present with current wind technology.

Other points that committee members noticed in some of the other ordinances that could be important to include were severability clauses, qualifying whether or not this would be classified as an essential service. Counties have a greater ability to enforce ordinances. Townships may not know how to administer something complex. This needs to be considered.

Mr. Cook and Mr. Kobetz suggested we all take some homework and begin to break down these ordinances and compare the language for particular topics. Following is a list of assignments:

Noise.....	Ms. Weed
Density, setbacks.....	Mr. Zemanek
Tower height.....	Mr. Nelson
Power grid.....	Mr. Cook
Bond, escrow, etc.....	Mr. Light
Lighting, FAA.....	Ms. Hyde
Construction, road,etc....	Mr. Pleva
Operations, safety.....	Mr. Kobetz

The next meeting will be Thursday, June 29.

Respectfully submitted,
Molly Hyde